

PERSHING CHATTER

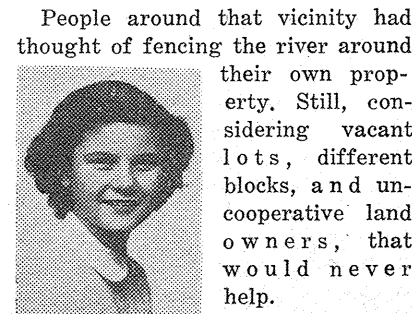
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Short, Short

Story of the Month HE HAD A REASON

By Ann Echols

Behind George Clark's small back yard was a cliff which dropped to a steep and dangerously unprotected torrent. The swift-moving torrent would hungrily seize any frightened child who dared come near and snuff out its life before horrified and helpless parents. An astounding total of seven tots had been victimized by its murderous waters in the last two years. George had a reason for hating this three-mile long neighborhood terror.



Echols

People around that vicinity had thought of fencing the river around their own property. Still, considering vacant lots, different blocks, and uncooperative land owners, that would never help.

Finally, after nights of worry, George thought he had a solution. Since the river belonged to the state, maybe the state government could help him.

So George wrote a letter; a letter telling of disaster and heartache due to the dangerous existence of the torrent; a letter pleading for mercy and relief. After writing the letter, tenseness and anxiety

Knockin' On The CLUB HOUSE DOOR

By HARVEY ZELLER

The column that I am writing is new in its idea and different in its effect. The main purpose of such a topic is to enlighten all of the student body on some of the outstanding clubs of Pershing and some of their many accomplishments.

As the new school year gets off to a lively start, the clubs that are beginning to further develop the students' interests, beauty Pershing's surroundings, and cause less pandemonium (incidentally that's the name of our new mascot), in the halls between class periods and before and after school are the Booster Club, the Boys' Hall Patrol, and the Hall Monitors.

The Booster Club is really striving to make Pershing a better school in which to "live" for seven hours each school day. Mr. Williams is the instructor of about forty-five ambitious students. As you all know, through their diligent work and tireless effort, the Booster Club members were supremely responsible for making the new 1954-55 student directory a reality. Very recently they painted the garbage cans around the school which helps to light up the entire surroundings. The club will sponsor a complete clean-up campaign this fall and next spring. The members of the club are willing to work, but they cannot handle the complete assignment alone, consequently student support must be gained. The main objective of their undertaking will be to inspire each homeroom to

gripped George. Suppose the state didn't have time, or perhaps they just couldn't help. Oh, they must help, they just must! He had a reason.

Within a week his efforts were rewarded by the sight of a fencing project under way. Eight days had gone by before the twelve foot fence was constructed on both sides of the stretching river. Now children would be safe.

George had succeeded! Inside he had a feeling of accomplishment. He had done something for not only himself, but for surrounding communities, too. But his main concern centered around his own son, Billy, number seven. You see, little Billy had been the seventh child to be drowned in the torrent. Yes, George had a reason.

take an avid interest in cleaning their respective rooms and the rest of the school.

On top of all this, the members will start a project to fertilize the trees around the Pershing campus. The students in the club most assuredly live up to their motto: To support any worthwhile activity at Pershing.

The Hall Monitors is a service club whose main effort and function is to make the halls a more orderly place in which to walk (not run), with less confusion and discord. As you all know, the students have a great responsibility to uphold, but as enormous as it is, the responsibility ever increases with the multiplying of the student body. Let us try to make their job as pleasant as possible and cooperate to the fullest of our ability with their rules and regulations.

Synonymous with the Hall Monitors is the Boys' Service Patrol. The members of this club, having made such an outstanding record last school year, are not able to continue their service to the school without necessary equipment. They cannot perform their essential duties and bring honor and credit upon the school if their badges and belts aren't supplied to them.

The boys have, in spite of the difficulties presented by inadequate equipment, been able to begin a project to rid the teachers' parking space behind the gym of students who persist in parking their cars on the allotted space. The club is being led under Mr. Brown's sponsorship.

I believe this about covers the club news for this time but do not fear, O fellow students, you'll be hearing, rather reading, from me in future editions.

Meet Our New Counselors

Pershing gained two new counselors this semester in order to compensate for this year's enrollment increase. We now have a counselor for each grade.

In addition to Mrs. McKinley, who has been the sole counselor for the past five years, and who continues as seventh grade counselor, we also have Mr. Ridley for the eighth grade and Mrs. Johnston for the ninth grade.

Mrs. McKinley also teaches math in addition to her counseling duties. She received her training at Columbia University. Mr. Ridley teaches world history and has been at Pershing for the past three years. He was graduated from the University of Houston. Miss Johnston teaches English. She came to Pershing from Marshall and before this did graduate work at Rice and counseling work at the University of Houston.

The new arrangement is for a counselor to work with the same group until it finishes Pershing. This arrangement will be to the advantage of both the students and the counselors.

The purpose of the counselor's work is to provide advice and guidance to individual students. The counselors are specially trained and equipped to give you educational, social, and personal guidance. Parents are also welcome to consult the counselors with the problems of their children.

It should be remembered that one of the most important things a counselor does is to help the student to help himself.

MR. HAMNER VISITS EUROPE

A few days after school was out Mr. Hamner, Pershing English teacher, boarded the ship Ile de France. He sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and in six days landed in Plymouth, England. This was not Mr. Hamner's first trip; he visited Europe three years after the war.

In Paris, France, he visited with friends he had met on this previous voyage. He also traveled through the British Isles, Spain, and Italy. He was very pleased to find the conditions in England and France improving and not as poor. Mr. Hamner returned a few days before school started.

LIBRARY FOOTBALL—

(Continued from Page 1)

all over the school and give a play titled "Paraway Places," for the entire student body. Also, Pershing will have a booth at the city-wide Book Fair, to be held at Fannin Elementary School, 2900 Louisiana Street. Our booth will be called "World of Fantasy" and is decorated by Mrs. Sorrel's art classes.

The Book Fair will include skits, story hours, and dramatizations and will be open November 15th through November 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The library is attended by the outstanding boys and girls of Pershing who have no grade lower than a "B". These students work hard to make our library enjoyable. There are three bulletin boards which are changed once every two weeks by the Library Club members. They receive service points for the Honor Society for doing this work.

This year the library is open from 7:50 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. every day, except for club periods. In the library there are close to 4,000 books, not counting pamphlets, magazines, and encyclopedias.

Chatter Sponsors New Advertising Contests, Silver Dollar Prizes

The Chatter is sponsoring a contest on the ads in this paper. There are twenty questions. The first person who turns in a perfect paper to Mr. Evans in Room 7 wins a silver dollar.

Answer all the questions as well and as quickly as possible, then turn your paper in to Mr. Evans and he will record the time and date you turned it in.

Low Ninth Elects Officers

The candidates for Low Nine officers were presented in auditorium. Those running for president made short campaign speeches. The Low Nines elect them as freshmen in high school, and they are elected every semester. The officers for the Low Nine are George "Buddy" Ives, president; Gus Koerner, vice-president; Moonyeene Heuston, secretary; and Charlie Church, treasurer. Buddy is in Mrs. Long's homeroom. He has been on the football team for two years, plays baseball, was president of his homeroom in the 8th grade, and has been Popular Panda. Gus is in Mr. Moore's homeroom. He is on the football team, has lettered in swimming, softball, and basketball. He was Popular Panda in his homeroom. Moonyeene is in Mrs. Lord's homeroom. She was 7th grade Maid in the May Fete, team captain in gym, Popular Panda in the 7th grade, president of her homeroom and chairman in one of her classes. Charlie is in Mrs. Barnes' homeroom. He is on the football team, and we are looking forward to hearing more of him.

New Assistant Comes To Library

If you go up to the library you will probably see Mrs. Beasley, the new assistant librarian. Mrs. Beasley, a University of Alabama graduate of Library Science, says she likes Pershing very much and the library facilities are wonderful. The new librarian worked before in Panama City, Florida, and in Uniontown, Alabama. She has done secretarial work.

Mrs. Beasley has lived in Houston for three years. She has a daughter, Ellis Beasley, here in the eighth grade. Among our new librarian's likes are the color blue, and steak.

SO NOW AN ALLIGATOR!

All science classes in Mr. Moss' room 211 took up a collection to purchase a small alligator for an aquarium.

Different from the usual goldfish and tropical fish, the alligator stimulates interest in another form of water life. By studying its habits, feeding it, and watching it grow, the pupils are becoming more and more fascinated with it. Pupils in all of the classes want to feed him his daily diet of a small hunk of hamburger but he is usually fed by the first period class.

The alligator hasn't been named yet but several suggested names are: Alli, Alley Oop, Sam, Henry, Mised Moss, Liberate, and Glenn Jr. The names will be presented to each of his classes and they will vote on it.

PERSHING TEACHER—

(Continued from Page 1)

crippled children regain and sustain their position in a normal life. Mrs. Hamilton was in her second year of teaching at Pershing. She taught English as well as math last year. Before coming to Pershing, she taught several years in the elementary grades and seven years at Alexander Hamilton Junior High School.

Pershing Students Visit Arts Museum

Approximately sixty lucky Pershing Junior High School students were excused from their usual classes Tuesday, October 19th, and given the privilege of touring the Museum of Fine Arts on South Main street.

Many students from Mrs. Sorrel's, Mrs. Stephenson's, and Mr. Lander's art classes took advantage of the opportunity to tour the museum. The students observed the "House of Art" and saw the Samuel Kress collection, the Egyptian room, and other fabulous paintings, ceramics, and furniture.

STUDENT COUNCIL—

(Continued from Page 1)

all the teachers' names and room numbers. The directory will be 30 inches high and 45 inches in width, and information will be shown in white letters on a black background protected by a glass front. The Council has already sponsored one dance for the Low-7 students. Other dances scheduled are the Snowflake Ball to be held in early December, the Football Dance in January, one for the Council members in March. Because of the variety of activities, both social and productive, which go with council membership, council work is highly rewarding.

PANDA PERSONALITIES



LINDA RIEDEL

Take a good look at this month's Popular Panda for the seventh grade. She is a cute little gal by the name of Linda Riedel.

She has brown hair, brown eyes, and is about 4 feet, 3 inches tall. Her homeroom teacher is Mr. Ridley, and among her favorites are: food, K. C. steaks, and pumpkin pie; drinks, coke and root beer (pardon the expression); subjects, English and social studies; color, pink; and song, "Poor Little Robin."

She came to Pershing from West University and plans to attend either the new high school in Bellaire or Lamar. Later, she would like to show the professors at Rice Institute how the A's are made. Here's good luck to a grand gal and a great big Pershing "Welcome" — glad to have you aboard!

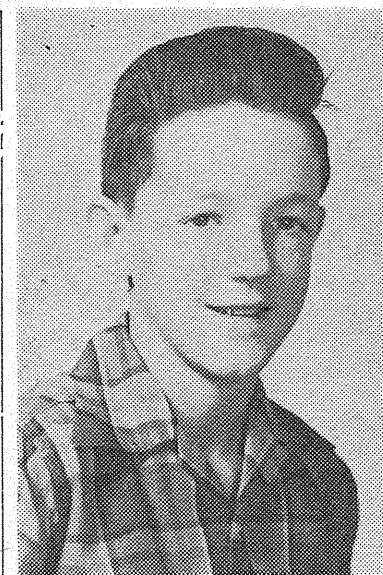
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DICK COOKSEY

Our eighth grade popular Panda is Dick Cooksey of Miss Huling's homeroom. He lists among his favorites: song, "Blue Tango;" food, roast beef; drink, milk; teacher, Mr. Barfield; and school, Southern Methodist University. Football, track, and swimming are his favorite sports. Dick has had many honors: he was on the "A" team in softball, he is on the football squad, and he is also a letterman in track. President of his homeroom and vice-chairman in one of his classes, we are sure Dick Cooksey will be a leader wherever he goes.

Pershing Prattle

By PATTI OLIVER

Hi there, all you pandas! Well, this is the beginning of a new school term and I sure hope all of you had an enjoyable vacation.

Parties still head the department of social activities. On the top of the list we find Martha McArthur had a couple's party at her home. A grand time was had by all including Diane Duncan, Joe Taylor, Janet Britt, Steve Holiday, Judy Marting, Dan McClean, John Williams, Joyce Van Boeckman, and Pat Webster.

Next on the list is a bluejean party given by Susan Smith on October first. Among those who attended were Judy Riehl, Judy Graufis, Joy Hammond, and Gail Haskell.

The straining sounds ringing forth from Mr. Hamner's room last week were not those of dying cast but of his English classes. Studying narrative poetry and ballads, the students were asked to sing the always popular songs of "Erie Canal" and "Oh, Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie." From the doors slamming about them, they drew just one conclusion; these songs are not as popular now.

A few weeks ago, a theater was invaded by Cathy Andrews, Emily Hamrick, Gloria Glisan, and some other girls from Marajane Gill's wiener-roast. They really had a great time.

Congratulations to the new Low-nine officers, namely George "Buddy" Ives, president; Gus Koerner, vice president; Moonyeene Heuston, secretary; and Charlie Church, treasurer.

Have you seen any of Andrea Mercer's erasers? It's funny but they all seem to have "Mike" engraved on them. Who could that be?

Sue Hancock was surprised on her birthday at a slumberless party in which all the kids went to the show. It seems the ushers had quite a time corraling them all. Some of the gals were Andy Mercer, Claire Emmett, Brenda Heid, Mary Wayne Heathcott, Nina Faulkner, Judy Johnson, Francella Bodden, Laurie Rayburn, and Carol Ann Hughes.

The smells coming from Miss Wyatt's sixth period algebra class seemed to be very unbecoming to her room. Could it be because Steve Thomas, Pat Sherrill, Bob Nash, Bill Yancey, Gaylord Gray, and Donnie Johnson had their shoes off?

Congratulations to the football team and cheerleaders, Judy Mount, Jamie Holt, Diane Frank, Norma



JUDY STRADER

This issue's ninth grade popular Panda is no stranger to any of us. She is five feet, 3 and three-quarter inches tall and has blond hair and blue eyes. Listed among favorites are fried chicken and Dr. Pepper, baby blue, all sports, and algebra, taught by Miss Moreland.

Her honors are many; she ran for Sweetheart out of her homeroom; she was chosen class leader twice and was a team captain in gym; was treasurer of her homeroom and is at present alternate cheerleader. She plans to attend Bellaire High School and later S. M. U. Of course, you have guessed by now she is Judy Strader, registration, Miss Miller's homeroom. Good luck to a great gal!



Hi, Pandas! Ready for some fads and fashions? As you probably very well know, summer is gone and winter isn't here yet. Therefore, it is very difficult to decide what to wear. Most girls are solving the problem by wearing winter skirts and summer blouses.

The longer hair seems to be the style at present. Of course, hair styles change often.

This year we aren't leaving boys out of the picture. Boys are being seen this year! You very seldom see a boy not wearing some kind of loud shirt. A color that is very popular with the boys, of all things, is PINK.

Back to the girls. Corduroy is being worn a lot this year . . . especially red. Felt, in all colors seems to be an all 'round favorite, too.

There are more straight skirts being worn everyday. It is nice to see some straight skirts after the full ones were the rave for so long. I wonder which style will survive? Shoes are the same as ever. Loafers are, of course, the teenage standard footwear, with a few ballet slippers scattered here and there. Other than the old stand-by brown leather loafers, the suede in black or grey is on the popularity list. Something new, however, are the red and white ones.

Well, Pandas, I guess that's about all for this issue. Join us again next time. So long.

Adams, Jane Yoder, Carolyn Craddock, and Judy Strader. You're really doing a great job. I'm sure that this year everyone would like to see that sportsmanship trophy in our trophy case. We could have it if we really try. Remember, it's all up to you.

After the football games have you noticed the kids evaporating from the stands? Where do they go? To Bill Williams, of course. Among the migrators seen there last were Louise Wright, Jim Crowe, Sharon Taylor, Robert Paterson, Pat Sherrill, John Stradinger, the cheerleaders, Jim Hunt, and Lee Raesener.

The Stardusters Dance Club celebrated Halloween by having a masquerade ball on Oct. 30 at Bellaire Community Center. Some of the masqueraders were Ann Echols, Ann Cooper, Jimmy Hunt, Andy Horne, and Gaylord Gray.

A firefly dance was held on October 9. It was loads of fun as Larry Allen, Barbara Bates, Bill Pitcher, and Bitty and Bell Hodgson found out.

Thanks to Carroll Sylvester we now have a new slogan in the Ace Buddy Buddy Club. In case you don't know what that is, it is an educational organization for very high society. This column should be called Believe It or Not. The news is Gurgle, Splurge, Spark.

We are very sorry to hear that Jim Crowe broke his collarbone in football. Here's hoping he'll be better soon.

Well, kids, that's all for this issue. I sure would appreciate any news of interest you could give me to put in this article. Just drop it in the Chatter box or give it to me personally. Thanks.

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H-9 ELECTS OFFICERS

Recently an election of officers for the High Nine was held. It was under the direction of Mrs. Johnson, ninth grade counselor. Each homeroom nominated two candidates who were voted on after introductions were made in H-9 assembly.

The candidates for president were Norma Adams, Carol McDonald, Andrea Mercer, Patti Oliver, and Lee Raesener. There was a runoff between Norma Adams and Lee Raesener with Lee Raesener receiving the largest number of votes.

There was also a runoff between Pat Sherrill and Gaylord Gray. Pat Sherrill was elected vice president. Also elected were Stephen Thomas, secretary; and Bob Nash, treasurer.

Symphony Tickets

The music department has begun the sale of season tickets for the Student Symphony Concerts. The symphonies are to be held in the Music Hall. There will be four concerts. They will be held on the following dates: December 8, January 12, February 16, and March 16.

PATROL WORKS—

(Continued from Page 1)

Hitt, David Hughes, Peter Kellogg, Billy Kelly, William Langley, Melvyn McDaniel, Jim Morgan, Paul McKaig, Richard Pevey, John Reese, David Roberts, Brent Swanson, Donald Tavel, Philip Wright and John Wukasch. These representatives come from low and high eight, and low and high nine homerooms.

PERSHING'S ALL A'S—

(Continued from Page 1)

Chanslor.
Mrs. Fennell's homeroom — Jane Ramsey and Jimmy Williams.
Mrs. La Verne's homeroom — Frank Jones and Barbara Jackson.
Mrs. Trice's homeroom — Don Edwards.
Mrs. Ferrell's homeroom — Linda Heitt.
Mrs. Richter's homeroom — Jean Parmley.
Mr. Williams' homeroom — Travis Broesche and Jere Wicker.
Mrs. Jackson's homeroom — Carole Cloninger and Carol Coulter.
Mr. Evans' homeroom — Janette Tomlinson.

In the seventh grade, the honor students are:
Mr. Hammer's homeroom — John Gray and Jim Garner.
Mr. McMillan's homeroom — Jeff Williams.

Mrs. Perkins' homeroom — Ramona Bowen and Diane Brown.
Mr. Corson's homeroom — Susan Switzer.

Miss Morrison's homeroom — David Malcolm Harrison.
Mrs. Madden's homeroom — Don Eckhart and Don Dunham.
Mrs. Bosson's homeroom — Judy Allen.

Mrs. Leggett's homeroom — Joyce Turner and Suzanne Vaughan.
Mrs. Starkey's homeroom — Judy Griggs, Patty Huston, Anita Jones and Albert Kidd.

Mr. Brown's homeroom — Heather Darley.
Mrs. Scarborough's homeroom — John Schilthuis and Linda Schnatterer.

Mrs. Lewis' homeroom — Robert Kamisky, Marion Kaplan, and Nancy LaMotta.

Mr. Eckels homeroom — Marvin Loney, Clint Marrow, Tommy Balsch, David Logan, and Fred Lipscomb.
Mr. Day's homeroom — Buddy Bustin, Jan Carouthers and Allen Chevis.